

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 FEA-02 OMB-01

SAM-01 DRC-01 NEA-11 PM-07 /200 W

----- 102933

R 081325Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7159

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS HELSINKI 0276

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD FI

SUBJ: FINNISH EXPORT CONTROLS AND TAXES

REF: A) STATE 022871 B) HELSINKI 0130

1. THERE HAVE BEEN TWO EVENTS OF THE TYPE REFERRED TO IN REFTEL A, QUESTION A, WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN FINLAND SINCE JANUARY 1973:

2. IN DECEMBER OF 1973, A REQUIREMENT WAS ESTABLISHED FOR LICENSING OF PETROLEUM PRODUCT EXPORTS. THIS ACTION WAS TAKEN SPECIFICALLY TO PREVENT ENTREPRENEURS FROM TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE THEN EXISTING PRICE DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN FINNISH AND SWEDISH PETROLEUM PRICES AND ALSO AS A GENERAL PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE IN VIEW OF THE PREVAILING OIL MARKET CONDITIONS.

3. THE OTHER EVENT WAS THE PASSAGE OF A LAW IN JANUARY OF 1974 GIVING THE GOVERNMENT THE POWER

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(WITH SPECIFIC PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL) TO

IMPOSE VARIABLE EXPORT LEVIES OF UP TO 25 PERCENT FOR A PERIOD OF UP TO EIGHTEEN MONTHS IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH AS THOSE CAUSED BY CURRENCY REALIGNMENTS OR UNUSUAL PRICE CHANGES.

4. QUESTION B: THERE EXISTS DEFINITE POSSIBILITY OF EXPORT LEVIES BEING IMPOSED ON BASIS OF ABOVE-MENTIONED LAW WHICH WOULD AMOUNT TO DE FACTO LEVY ON WOOD, PULP AND PAPER PRODUCTS, NOT RPT NOT TO RESTRICT EXPORTS, BUT CHANNEL "WINDFALL" PROFITS OF THOSE INDUSTRIES INTO OTHER SECTORS OF ECONOMY.

5. QUESTION C: FINNISH BI-LATERAL TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES (PRINCIPALLY THE USSR) ARE SIMILAR IN SOME RESPECTS TO BARTER AGREEMENTS: TWO THIRDS OF FINNISH CRUDE OIL IS PURCHASED FROM THE USSR ALONG WITH OTHER IMPORTS IN EXCHANGE FOR A COLLECTION OF EXPORTS WHICH ARE SUPPOSED TO BE IN BALANCE.

6. ONLY OTHER EXPORT RESTRICTION IS REQUIREMENT FOR LICENSING EXPORTS OF METAL SCRAP WHICH HAS BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE 1961.

KREHBIEL

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